

LITERARY NOTES.

"My Lady Pocahontas" is the quaint title of the new novel which Mr. John Esten Cooke has written and which Houghton, Mifflin & Co. are about to publish.

Princess Alexandra has herself been giving the final touch to the book of travels which her young sons have written. The book will be called "The Cruise of the Bosphorus."

Volume Eighteen of the *Encyclop dia Britannica* is now ready.

There is a change in the chorus which for many years has been the accompaniment of Mr. Henry James's publications; praise has been succeeded by blame in which there is, perhaps, quite as little justice as in the absurd laudation which came before it. "The Chicago Tribune" now rises to declare that "He sketches a class of girls utterly flat and silly that they are devoid of interest." It may be possible that there are such creatures in existence, but a who wants to know or hear of them? Why should they be dragged out of their native insipidity and dullness and be placed before a public which cares no more for them in books than it does in real life? In point of fact, neither Mr. James nor Mr. Howells has yet succeeded in portraying the typical Boston girl; but there is this difference between them—that Mr. Howells is not malicious in his work. He, too, is apt to fill his stories with very weak and uninteresting women who might better have been left in their original obscurity, but Mr. James evidently intends to lampoon and caricature.

These structures are not without truth; and if Mr. James presently finds that his American readers turn somewhat of a cold shoulder toward him, he will hardly have a right to complain. No man is a true artist who is incapable of portraying more than two or three "types." Mr. James has not yet graced fiction with a portrait of the "type" of high minded, spiritued, quick-witted and thoroughly refined American girl; yet she undoubtedly exists. His "Isabel" is approached most nearly to such a creation, but she is spoilt by defects which are wholly out of character.

Mr. Howells as well as Mr. James, may profitably reflect upon the question, "Is not sameness as fatiguing in the women of novels as in the women of real life?"

A reprint of the first edition of Mr. John Payne's complete translation of "The Thousand and One Nights" is announced by R. Worthington. The original edition had no illustrations, but the reprint has twenty-one etchings by Lalanne. These are to be printed on India paper. The edition will be issued at the rate of one volume a month, each volume costing five dollars.

"Scandinavia" has a charming paper on Hans Christian Andersen, and in the course of it mentions the novelist's astonishing power of imitation. Nobody ever mistook his imitations for realities, and yet the images were so vivid and so exact that they never failed to produce intense delight. He was a great admirer of Madame Bistro; and once in a great company he would upon an enthusiastic description of her representation of Lady Macbeth in the sleep-walking scenes with the exclamation: "She does not act it, she dances it!" General astonishment. In his excitement however, he probably forgot himself a little, for he was company rather retiring, and, stepping back a few paces, he actually began to dance Madame Bistro's Lady Macbeth. But, tall, pale, ill-shaped, and awkward as he was, with a few movements he gave a perfectly distinct and perfectly correct idea of the marvellous plastic power of that grand actress.

Mr. G. W. Cable is preparing what he calls a book of "remarkable true stories, largely illustrated, of Louisiana life, which have come to me in the last fifteen years; some have been told me, some of them have come under my own observation. The strange thing about these stories is the purely accidental connection between them. I shall give them to the public without embellishment, just as they have come to me, and I think when you read them you will agree with me that they are a remarkable series. My great difficulty will be to make it appear plain to the reading public that they are really and only true stories."

The prettiest possible little edition of Keats is that which Mr. Francis Turner Palgrave has just added to his precious Golden Treasury Series. It is tastefully printed and bound and is rendered more valuable by careful notes.

Mr. Julian Arnold, son of Edwin Arnold, has contributed to the February "Wide-Awake" a neat little sketch of "A Dahabeha Wreck on the Nile."

"Stops, or How to Punctuate" is a small but exceedingly useful manual. Its instructions are simple and direct.

An edition of the Rev. J. G. Wood's comprehensive work on natural history will soon be brought out by Sehmer Hess. It has been edited with additions by J. B. Hooper.

A very handsome monograph on the Princess Charlotte has lately been brought out in England. A sketch revealing her in many graceful phases. Not the least attractive is that of the small girl entertaining Miss Hannah More, who called her hostess "the prettiest, most sensible, and gentlest little creature you would wish to see." The royal little lady took excellent Hannah by the hand, and she in her black silk hood and powdered hair, trotted off with her to inspect the house, to look at what was hidden by the covers on the chairs and sofas, and finally to hear her Royal Highness repeat, "How doth a little busy bee." Good Miss More says she danced a graceful "pas seul" for her benefit and sang with much spirit and precision, "God save the King."

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GENERAL MARKET REPORT.

NEW-YORK, February 3, 1865.

BUILDING MATERIALS.—There is simply nothing doing;

Bricks, Lumber, Lime, Lime and all are very slow, and not much hold out for me to buy.

The timber market is particularly well supported in view of the very moderate offerings.

The Eastern and Western markets are in very good condition, and the prices are steady.

The steamer survey. No trade in Live cattle and none offered.

There is a steady demand for mutton, and the feeding is steady.

City dressed Beef now at 75¢ per lb. for car.

Brisket, Lamb, Bacon, &c. are very slow.

Round Beef, 15¢ per lb. 150 cases Sumatra, \$1.20-\$1.60.

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